

In 1982, Steckler stepped down as chief judge of this district, at the time having served the longest tenure of any active chief judge in the nation.

He remained on the bench initially as a federal judge and then as a judge of senior status.

Over the years, many lawyers and litigants undoubtedly took issue with Steckler's rulings. But most felt that he had granted them their day in court, had taken great pains to ensure that the judicial process worked and had agonized long and hard over the decision he had rendered.

Steckler had a full realization of the role of courts in society.

It is a legacy that he nourished and passed on to others in this district.

He will be greatly missed and long remembered.

CLINTON'S FOREIGN POLICY: SENDING THE WRONG MESSAGES

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I urge you to take note of an article which appeared in the Albany Times Union on March 23. It is not hard to understand why Russia is not taking our concerns seriously about Chechnya and nuclear proliferation when the Clinton administration publicly threatens and criticizes Russia for its actions, yet continues to act as if it is business as usual by celebrating the 50th anniversary of V-E Day in Moscow. Based on these empty threats it is no surprise that the Russians intensified their military operations in Chechnya following the President's decision to travel to Russia.

The article follows:

AN UNTIMELY TRIP TO MOSCOW

The issue: President Clinton intends to visit Boris Yeltsin despite criticism.

Our opinion: He cannot escape the need to face up to Chechnya.

The Clinton administration continues to bet its chips on President Boris Yeltsin's regime in Russia, despite cautions from many sides that doing so is backing a horse fading in mid-race.

In agreeing to attend the Moscow celebrations on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, President Clinton overrode earlier objections, raised within the administration as well as by political opponents, to such a trip. The savage campaign by President Yeltsin to crush secessionists Chechnya was reason enough for the American president to abstain from a summit meeting.

Furthermore, the incompetent performance of the Russian army forced Mr. Yeltsin to further distance himself from the modernizing forces in Russia, which oppose the Chechnya war, and become more beholden to nationalist and Communist elements, who are for it.

The loser is the momentum to democratic reform. The United States' principal reason for strongly backing Mr. Yeltsin through several major crises was that he was the best instrument for developing democracy in Russia.

To entice Mr. Clinton to come to Moscow, Mr. Yeltsin made a couple of gestures. He permitted international rights monitors into Chechnya, and he agreed to downplay the military aspects of the May 9 observance in Moscow.

Furthermore, the Clinton administration did not wish to be indifferent to Moscow's argument that the Soviet people paid a fearful price—some 20 million dead—to help bring about the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Those actions and arguments notwithstanding, Senate Republicans Jesse Helms and Mitch McConnell outspokenly oppose Mr. Clinton's journey to Moscow. They have a point.

Specifically on Chechnya, the U.S. should have extracted more concessions from President Yeltsin, providing for ways to bring the civil war to an end. That would serve Boris Yeltsin most of all, and buttress those in Russia laboring for a more democratic society.

Having decided to go, Mr. Clinton is obliged to try to accomplish face to face what lower level diplomacy could not.

IMPACT OF RESCISSIONS ON ELDERLY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, we have heard time and time again that the opposition is determined to provide less Government and lower taxes, but for who?

Well, now we have the answer. The cuts before us clearly show that the intention is to provide less help to those who most need it, and lower taxes for those who have the most.

For those who fear the onset of winter, and the long and cold nights that it brings, these cuts will force a choice between heating and eating. My State of Rhode Island was supposed to receive \$8.8 million in energy assistance next winter. No more.

This bill turns its back on the 26,000 households, more than 59,000 individuals in Rhode Island, who rely on the little bit of help they get for energy assistance.

When the average heating bill in Providence is \$1,200 a winter, a grant of \$414 can make a world of difference.

To quote a couple from my State, writing about the assistance they received:

Thank you so very much from our hearts to yours. By your compassion we're touched. May God bless you * * * Not one day did we live cold * * *

Sixty percent of the households in Rhode Island who receive energy assistance are either elderly, on fixed incomes, or working poor. Most have household incomes between \$6,000 and \$8,000. A capital gains tax cut will provide little comfort to these people in the dead of winter next year.

This cut is indefensible, and I suspect that is why the majority would not even allow an amendment restoring this money to make it to the floor.

They will be able to avoid the pain of a vote today, but our seniors will be forced to feel the pain of their cuts tomorrow.

The cuts to housing again hit at those most in need. Forty percent of the housing cuts will strike senior citizens, threatening the very viability and quality of their housing by slashing operating subsidies and modernization funds—maintenance, necessary improvements, and security will be cut back.

In Pawtucket, RI, the cut in modernization funds could mean that a planned central security station will have to be eliminated. What

protection will the seniors living in Burns Manor derive from the big business loopholes in the tax package?

Is this the right way to begin cutting the budget? I do not think so.

When it comes to cutting the budget, let us start with the programs that are the weakest and not the programs for the weakest.

CELEBRATING TUFTONIA'S WEEK

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, this spring marks the 11th consecutive year in which alumni from Tufts University will celebrate their special relationship with their alma mater by participating in Tuftonia's Week and Tuftonia's Day activities.

This holiday for the 85,000-plus alumni of Tufts derives its name from the title of a venerable Tufts football fight song written by E.W. Hayes who graduated from the university in 1916.

The theme of this year's celebration is Tuftserve which focuses on Tufts alumni who volunteer in their community. These alumni enhance the quality of life in their communities. They help make our shared community a better place for all to thrive in.

Tuftonia's Week is recognized wherever Tufts has a campus. In addition to a formal proclamation ceremony on campus hosted by the president of Tufts, local observances through the years have ranged from small gatherings in restaurants or clubs to champagne receptions in museums, art galleries, and private homes.

Tufts graduates are a proud people who enjoy gathering to think Tufts, thank Tufts, and toast Tufts. This year, alumni will be honoring fellow graduates who also serve in the name of Tufts.

As Tufts University alumni celebrate Tuftonia's Week this year, I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the university and the alumni a successful celebration.

MARYLAND'S MED-EVAC PROGRAM CELEBRATES FIRST 25 YEARS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 24, 1995

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago this week, the Maryland State Police made its first medical evacuation flight, transporting a patient to the University of Maryland's hospital in Baltimore. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Maryland State Police and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System for their outstanding achievements since 1970. That year, a total of 197 medical transport flights were made with an 88 percent survival rate. Today, I want to recognize this maiden flight by Cpl. Gary Moore and Trooper First Class Paul Benson which started one of the Nation's first airborne medical evacuation programs. Maryland's Med-Evac program, operated by the Maryland State Police,